



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 11, 2008

S. 2593

Forest Landscape Restoration Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 7, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 2593 would establish a collaborative program between the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to select and fund ecological restoration projects on certain forest lands. To fund the program, the bill would create and authorize appropriations for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.

Based on information from the Forest Service and assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2593 would cost \$188 million over the 2009-2013 period and approximately \$250 million in the years after 2013. Enacting this bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2593 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2593 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | | 2009-2013 |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 200 |
| Estimated Outlays | 30 | 38 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 188 |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2593 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated over the 2009-2013 period.

S. 2593 would establish a collaborative program between the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to select and fund ecological restoration projects on certain forest lands. The projects conducted under the program could involve state, local, and tribal participants, and projects would, among other activities, explore ways to reduce the costs of managing wildland fires by re-establishing natural fire regimes. (A natural fire regime describes the pattern that fires follow in particular ecosystems.)

S. 2593 would establish a fund in the Treasury to pay for up to half of the costs of the projects and would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million a year to the fund over the 2009-2019 period. The Secretaries currently spend several million dollars per year managing wildland fires and on programs to promote healthy forest lands. Under the bill project funding also could come from local governments or private entities.

Based on information from the Forest Service and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2593 would cost \$188 million over the 2009-2013 period and approximately \$250 million in the years after 2013.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2593 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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